

## CHILDLESS WIND

There will be no child of wind  
To wail in small muffled cries,  
Immediates, no embryonic cord  
To cut or alliances to dissever.

The alien sperm stroke or count  
Will be short and flow, unwilling  
To give birth the convergence of such  
Shortcomings will be  
Our future mouthings-up.

I will to will  
No child to this world.

-- Paul Mariah

South San Francisco, CA

### The Grocery List

she taught sixth grade  
wore her hair in a bun  
& had bright red  
pubic hair.  
at her big house  
in the suburbs we had  
"intellectual discussions"  
before & after we  
fucked.  
& once she told me  
she used to make up  
the grocery list  
while her husband  
humped her.

what do you think of  
with me  
I asked.  
pure sex  
she said.  
naturally  
I believed her.

things went on  
cloak & dagger  
a few months  
with her  
teaching me.  
so that  
I thought I  
was the master  
& she the pupil.  
things went on  
cloak & dagger  
with the husband  
getting his dagger  
in  
maybe once every  
ten days  
he practically rapes me  
she said  
there's nothing I can do.

do you come I  
wanted to know.  
of course not I  
only come with you  
she said  
with him I make up  
the grocery list.

eventually  
I grew tired of  
her.  
she was still great  
in bed  
I couldn't  
deny that.  
but she had to work  
to get me interested.

a month went by  
without seeing her.  
two months.  
I wasn't getting  
much  
I wasn't getting  
anything.  
I heard she had  
left the old man,  
found a new place.  
so I stopped by  
late one night.  
like always  
she was good  
& I thought  
what a deal,  
what a great deal  
to have this here  
whenever I  
need it.  
she was good  
but aloof  
or something.

afterwards she said  
she was having  
an affair  
with another  
teacher.  
she didn't know  
why  
except he was cute  
he was tall  
he was the  
american dream,  
but he wasn't  
that good  
in bed.

do you have  
anything to eat  
I asked.  
no  
she said,  
I have to get  
the groceries  
tomorrow.